

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****5                   REDUCED SENSITIVITY SPIN VALVE HEAD FOR  
                  MAGENTIC TAPE APPLICATIONS**

Apparatus and methods for reducing the sensitivity  
10 of spin valve sensor read heads for magnetic tape  
applications are provided. The apparatus and methods  
compromise the large output gain derived from using state  
of the art spin valve sensors in order to reduce the flux  
capture and thus, the signal distortion in the spin valve  
15 sensor. In order to provide a reduced sensitivity spin  
valve sensor, one or more of the basic sensitivity of the  
spin valve, the flux carrying capability of the free  
layer, and the flux injection efficiency of the spin  
valve head structure are modified to reduce the flux  
20 capture by the sensing layer.

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